

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1 (Currently Amended). A catheter assembly comprising

a catheter tube,

an operative element carried at one end of the catheter tube, the operative element including a basket structure comprising at least first and second spines, each spine including a flexible body defining at least two interior first and second lumens, a first one of the interior lumens of each first and second spine including a ~~two~~ fluid-conveying port[s],

first and second elongated electrode elements extending, respectively, through the second one of the interior lumens of the first and second spines for sliding movement between a retracted position withdrawn in the respective second one of the interior lumens and an extended position extending outward from the respective second one of the interior lumens,

a mechanism carried by the catheter tube for controlling the sliding movement of the first and second elongated electrode elements between the retracted and extended positions, and

a manifold body carried within the catheter tube, the manifold body including a single main fluid junction coupled to a fluid source or a fluid destination external to the catheter tube, ~~multiple branch~~ first and second fluid junctions each individually coupled, respectively, to the first one of the interior lumens of the first and second spines ~~fluid-conveying ports on the operative element,~~ and a fluid circuit formed within the manifold body to channel fluid between the single main fluid junction and the ~~multiple branch~~ first and second fluid junctions.

2 (Canceled).

3 (Currently Amended). An assembly according to claim 1

wherein the fluid-conveying port[s] of the first one of the interior lumens of the first and second spines conveys irrigation fluid from an external source for contact with a tissue region through the manifold.

4 (Currently Amended). An assembly according to claim 1

wherein the fluid-conveying port[s] of the first one of the interior lumens of the first and second spines conveys fluid from a tissue region to an external designation through the manifold.

5 (Original). An assembly according to claim 1

wherein the manifold comprises a single molded body sized for placement within the catheter tube.

6 (Canceled).